SEPT. 19-20, 2008

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

# Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **September 19-20**. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at these meetings. For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

## President's Report

President Sean Noah has attended numerous meetings in his capacity as President including the CTF Board of Directors Meeting and AGM, CONTACT, several events for retiring teachers, and brought greetings to the AGMs of the NL Association of Directors of Education and the NL School Boards Association. He has presented Special Recognition Awards to teacher recipients, attended the recognition ceremony for Prime Ministers Awards for Teaching Excellence recipients, presented the award to the 2008 NLTA Medal recipient, and participated in the wreath laying at the War Memorial on July 1.

The President has continued school visits throughout the province. He has been active in the media on provincial negotiations, the teacher allocation model, professional development/inservice days, cyberbullying, and awards for teachers.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

## Association Priorities

The Association priorities were reviewed by Provincial Executive. Various administrative staff reviewed the elements of the document including goals, responsibility, indication of progress/success and updates. The Association priorities for 2007-09 are: quality of teacher work life/teacher workload; negotiations; teacher professional development; membership involvement/awareness; and Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways Commission reports.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Collective Bargaining

Negotiations on the provincial collective agreement are scheduled to begin on September 24-26, 2008. Negotiations will start with an exchange of opening proposals between the NLTA Negotiating Team and the Employer Negotiating Team. As per usual NLTA practice, a special Joint Council Meeting will take place following the exchange of opening proposals to present the opening proposals to Branch Presidents and allow for a detailed explanation of same, in preparation for the branch meetings to follow. This special Joint Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 4 at the Holiday Inn in St. John's. Branch meetings are being planned to take place within 2-3 weeks after the Joint Council meeting.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

## Faculty of Education, MUN

A presentation was made to Provincial Executive Council by Dr. David Dibbon, who was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Education as of July 1, 2008. Dr. Dibbon presented his vision for the Faculty of Education including developing relevant and accessible programs, connections to the community, promoting excellence in teaching, and encouraging research on teaching.

A question and answer session followed the presentation. Members of Provincial Executive and NLTA Administrative Staff had the opportunity to provide feedback to Dr. Dibbon on the information in his presentation, and to pose follow-up questions.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Francophone Presentation

Beverley Park, directrice des services de perfectionnement professionnel a présenté un video du conseil scolaire francophone provincial. Le but de cette presentation était de sensibiliser les members du conseil executif de notre Association des defies et des joies de l'enseignement dans un milieu minoritaire francophone ici à Terre-Neuve et Labrador et de féliciter le conseil scolaire francophone provincial puisque 2008-09 représente le dixième anniversaire du conseil.

Beverley Park, Senior Administrative Officer in the Professional Development Division made a presentation on the Conseil Scolaire Francophone Provincial using a recruitment video produced by the CSFP. The purpose was to make Provincial Executive more aware of the special circumstances of teachers who teach in a minority language environment and also to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the francophone board. The President will provide written communication to the Board in recognition of the tenth anniversary.

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## Update on Recommendations of ISSP/Pathways Report

A presentation was made to Provincial Executive by Dan Goodyear, Director of Student Support Services, and Sandra Taylor, Program Specialist, both with the Department of Education providing an update of progress and activity on recommendations of the ISSP/Pathways Report. The update included information on the child/youth profiles; the model of allocating special education teachers; on-line resource of alternate courses; assessment materials; inclusive education policy; provisions of special education services to students in French Immersion; the appeals process for families; as well as other information on the recommendations.

Provincial Executive had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the information provided.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Electoral Committee

The province-wide election for the 2009-11 NLTA President and Vice-President will take place on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

For further information contact Leo Freeborn, Chair, Electoral Committee or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Business from Standing Committees

*Table Officers*

- The proposed schedule of meetings of Executive, Table Offers and Joint Council for 2009-10 was accepted. The schedule is as follows:

  September 17 (a.m.) – Table Officers

  September 17 (p.m.) -19 – Provincial Executive

  November 25 – Table Officers

  November 26 – Provincial Executive

  November 27-28 – Joint Council

  December 18 – Table Officers

  January 21 – Table Officers

  January 22-23 – Provincial Executive

  March 24 – Table Officers

  March 25 – Provincial Executive

  March 26-27 – Joint Council

  May 27 – Table Officers

  May 28-29 – Provincial Executive

- The NLTA will continue its sponsorship of the Newspapers in Education Program at the level of $1,000 for 2008-09.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Other Business

- The Association will prepare information for teachers outlining the legal implications and NLTA policy on car pooling requirements for teachers attending inservice sessions once the legal opinion is received from the NLTA solicitors.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

- The Association will communicate to the Department of Education teachers' concerns re the distribution/collection of textbooks at the intermediate/high school level and request that the Department institute a central distribution system for textbooks and provide support personnel and/or software for this purpose.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for comment, actioning or further discussion: teacher travel and personal liability; distribution/collection of textbooks at the intermediate/high school level; cost of attendance at professional development.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

## Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **November 27** in St. John's, followed by a Joint Council meeting on **November 28-29**.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.